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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1744
Docket No.: 1489.1001**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

James E. McGowan, Jr.

Serial No. 09/826,420

Group Art Unit: 1744

Confirmation No. 5040

Filed: April 5, 2001

Examiner: CHORBAJI, MONZER R

For: MEDICAL ARTICLE STERILIZATION METHOD AND DEVICE

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BOX: AF

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 31, 2003, and having a period for response set to expire on March 31, 2004.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.